

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Entry of the present amendment and reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Karlsson (U.S. 5,866,859) in view of Swanson (U.S. 5,295,602). Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of "a resilient tongue (23) [is] attached to the net (21), which resilient tongue (23) acts as one part of said snap fastening means (20, 23)." Support for this feature is found in page 2, lines 5-10 of the specification, and also FIG. 1. Karlsson does not describe a spark catcher net, wherein a resilient tongue is attached to the net and acts as a part of a snap fastening means.

Swanson describes a snap closure that secures an air filter housing cover to an air filter housing base, and does not give any insight towards the present invention. An air filter combined together with a filter housing is designed to filter air before said air enters a combustion engine. A challenge when designing such arrangements is to make it leak-free. Therefore, filter housings constituting of more than two parts are often provided with seals between the parts to prevent any unwanted materials, e.g. dust particles, to enter the engine. The purpose of the spark catcher net is not to clean the air. On the contrary, the particles of the exhaust gases should be caught by the spark catcher net and there should be as little resistance as possible for the flow of exhaust gases. The spark catcher net is designed to catch sparks of certain diameters and the dimensions of the net have been chosen accordingly.

Furthermore, the filter and the spark catcher net are used in completely different environments. The spark catcher net unlike the air filter is subject to very high temperatures, which implies that it can only be made of certain materials. Thus, the purpose and features of a

spark catcher net and an air filter are so different that an ordinary person with skill in the art at the time of the invention would not apply ideas from the one area to the other.

Also, even though a skilled person in the art would see an analogy between a spark catcher net and an air filter, the solution as taught by Swanson is completely different. The object of claim 1 of the present invention is to be able to remove or replace the spark catcher net in a simple manner. This is solved by a spark catcher net attached to a resilient tongue, where the resilient tongue acts as one part of a snap fastening means. The snap fastening means can be released and the spark catcher net together with the resilient tongue may be pulled out by a simple depressing of the snap fastening means. Swanson, on the other hand, teaches that a cover must first be removed in order to remove or replace the filter. This clearly points the skilled person in the art away from the invention.

If the spark catcher net should be compared to an air filter, then the filter housing would correspond to the pocket according to claim 1 of the present invention. By applying the Swanson principle to the invention a part of the pocket should be removable by releasing a snap fastening means. This solution would clearly imply a more complicated way of removing/replacing the spark catcher net. Applying the principle of the present invention to the Swanson solution would mean pulling out the filter without loosening an air filter cover. There is nothing in Swanson that suggests such a feature.

Furthermore, the cover as taught by Swanson is released and/or fastened through a rotational motion. The motion according to the invention, see e.g. figure 1, is linear as the net is pushed into or pulled out of the pocket. The cover and the base also have to be provided with means for guiding such that they will not be askew in relation to each other when fastened. What guides the spark catcher net is the pocket (which would correspond to the filter cover and base).

Thus, it should be clear that fastening one air filter cover part to another air filter cover part does not give a skilled person in the art an incentive to provide a spark catcher net with a resilient tongue for easy snapping of the net into place. One with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not combine the apparatus of the Karlsson reference with the apparatus of the Swanson reference to arrive at the present invention. Claim 1 is now believed to be in a condition of allowance. Transversal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. ABE1-41329.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

By: /Ronald M. Kachmarik/
Ronald M. Kachmarik— Reg. No. 34512

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

Date: May 27, 2009